

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6, 8-9, and 11-12 are currently pending. Claims 1-6, 8, and 11-12 have been amended; and Claims 7 and 10 have been canceled without prejudice by the present amendment. No new matter has been added.¹

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,058,277 to Streetskerk et al. (hereafter the '277 patent); and Claims 3 and 6-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the '277 patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,283,258 B1 to Kuno et al. (hereafter the '258 patent).

In response to the rejection of Claims 1 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), Claims 1 and 4 have been amended to recite features not taught nor rendered obvious by the cited reference.

Briefly summarizing, Claim 1 is directed to a printing job controlling device configured to display a queue of printing jobs. The printing job controlling device includes a calculating unit configured to calculate a time required to process a printing job. The printing job controlling device also includes a reading unit configured to read out a current status of the printing job. Further, the controlling device includes a displaying unit configured to display an image having a size proportional to the time required calculated by the calculating unit and *filled with a repeating pixel pattern that changes according to the current status* read out by the reading unit.

¹ Amended Claims 1 and 4 are supported at least by Fig. 15 and associated text. Amended Claims 2 and 5 are supported at least by Fig. 14 and associated text. Amended Claims 3 and 6 are supported at least by Claim 7 and Figs. 18-19. Amended Claims 8 and 11-12 are supported by original Claims 8 and 11-12.

The outstanding Office Action asserts that the '277 patent describes a printing job controlling device with all features recited in Claim 1. Specifically, the outstanding Office Action asserts that a circle segment 408 shown in Figure 4 of the '277 patent changes according to the status read out by the reading unit. The outstanding Office Action supports this assertion by referring to column 6, lines 1-11, and column 5, lines 8-15 of the '277 patent.

Applicants respectfully submit that the circle segment illustrated in Figure 4 and also in Figures 5-9 of the '277 patent is not ***filled with a repeating pixel pattern that changes according to the current status***, as recited in Claim 1. In fact, the '277 patent merely describes a colored or shaded segment 408. The color of the segment 408 represents a single print job, so multiple adjacent print jobs have different colors so they can be distinguished. However, the '277 patent is silent regarding the color or shading ***changing according to the current status*** of a print job. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 patentably defines over the '277 patent.

Claim 4, while directed to an alternate embodiment, recites a feature of changing a repeating pixel pattern according to the current status. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 4 patentably defines over the '277 patent.

In response to the rejection of Claims 2 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), Claims 2 and 5 have been amended to recite features not taught nor rendered obvious by the applied reference.

Claim 2 is directed to a printing job controlling device configured to display a queue of printing jobs to be printed on printing machines. The printing job controlling device includes, *inter alia*, a displaying unit configured to display ***a list of identifiers of the printing machines in a column*** and to display an image of a current printing job having a size proportional to the time calculated by a calculating unit continuously on a predetermined

displaying area *at a fixed location adjacent to an identifier of a corresponding printing machine* at one end of the displaying area.

Applicants respectfully submit that the '277 patent fails to teach or suggest the feature of displaying a list of identifiers of printing machines in a column, and displaying an image of a current printing job adjacent to the identifier of a corresponding printing machine, as recited in Claim 2. Amended Claim 5 recites similar features. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2 and 5 patentably define over the '277 patent.

In response to the rejections of Claims 3 and 6-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Claims 3 and 6 have been amended to recite features not taught nor rendered obvious by the applied references.

Claim 3 is directed to a printing job controlling device configured to display a queue of printing jobs. The printing job controlling device includes, *inter alia*, a displaying unit configured to display rectangular images, each image having a size proportional to the time required calculated by a calculating unit continuously on a predetermined displaying area, *adjacent to each other with gaps between adjacent images, forming a combined substantially rectangular image having a size proportional to a sum of calculated times required to process each of the printing jobs.*

The outstanding Office Action asserts that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine circular pie charts described by the '277 patent with bar graphs described by the '258 patent, to arrive at the features recited in Claim 3.

Applicants respectfully submit that even if the teachings of the '277 patent and the '258 patent were combined, the combined teaching would fail to teach the features recited in Claim 3. Specifically, the '277 patent describes a circular diagram for illustrating the amount of time required for a printing job, as illustrated in Figure 8 of the '277 patent. As is clearly

shown in Figure 8, the printing jobs 801-806 are placed **adjacent and contiguous** to each other, with **no gaps** therebetween.

The '258 patent describes a bar graph for indicating a remaining amount of colored ink in an ink jet printer.

Thus, if one of ordinary skill in the art were to combine the circular diagram shown in Figure 8 of the '277 patent and the bar diagram shown in Figure 6 of the '258 patent, the combination would **lack any gaps between adjacent images**, because the '277 patent doesn't describe any.

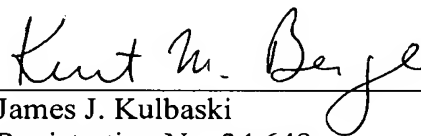
Further, the '277 patent states that the individual segments of the circle are colored or shaded differently in order to distinguish them from one another. Thus, there would be no need to indicate any separation with a gap. On the other hand, Claim 3 recites images which are *adjacent to each other with gaps between adjacent images*, which advantageously enables one to distinguish individual printing jobs from one another, even if they are filled with an identical pixel pattern indicating their current status.

Amended Claim 6 recites similar features. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 3 and 6 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably define over any proper combination of the '277 patent and the '258 patent.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kurt M. Berger", is written over a horizontal line.

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